

Subject: New Construction Surges

From: "Bud Ovrom" <LADBS.Newsletter@lacity.org>

Date: 11/09/2012 09:52 AM

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**Volume III,
Issue 5,
November
2012**

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**Special Points
of Interest**

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requests, please
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Performance
Enhancement
Program](#)*

**Inside This
Issue**

[Frank Bush
Chief of Code
Enforcement
Bureau](#)

[Colin Kumabe
Assistant Deputy
Superintendent of
Building II](#)

[John Biezins
Chief Inspector](#)

Message from the General Manager



Monthly Statistics

We'll do a deeper dive into our new construction statistics at the end of December - - the midpoint of our Fiscal Year. In the meantime, we could not be more pleased with the steady economic progress we are continuing to see after 4 months.

All of the metrics we track in this newsletter are up by double digits! Up by double digits for all of the month-over-month numbers as well as up by double digits for all of the year-to-date statistics.

Take a moment to savor the chart below. It provides tangible evidence that the economy continues to improve, with more people back at work and more revenues coming into the City for essential services!

Our biggest challenge continues to be keeping our staffing levels up with our workload. During the Great Recession we lost 234 positions. With the year's budget, we regained 44 positions, but have not yet been able to fill most of them. Our current **backlog** in Plan Check is 384 projects with a value of \$297 million. Delays in Plan Check, at the counter and in the field are at unacceptable levels, but are being addressed. We expect to see progress on these staffing challenges by our mid-year report.

The new budget also gave us the authorization to make some well deserved and long overdue promotions. In this newsletter we are proud to profile 8 of our recently promoted outstanding leaders.

[Luke Zamperini](#)
[Chief Inspector](#)



[Kim Arther](#)
[Chief Inspector](#)

[Ewa O'Neal](#)
[Building Civil](#)
[Engineer](#)

[Bradley Neighbors](#)
[Chief Inspector](#)

[Ara Sargsyan](#)
[Building Civil](#)
[Engineer](#)

**LADBS
Construction
Service
Centers**

Downtown

201 N.
Figueroa
Street
Los Angeles,
CA 90012
(Figueroa
Plaza)

**West Los
Angeles**

1828 Sawtelle
Blvd.
2nd Floor
Los Angeles,
CA 90025

South LA

8475 S.
Vermont Ave.
2nd Floor
Los Angeles,
CA 90044

Van Nuys

6262 Van
Nuys Blvd.
2nd Floor,
Room 251
Los Angeles,
CA 91401

San Pedro

638 S. Beacon
Street
Room 276
San Pedro,

Congratulations To Our Latest Promotees

Frank Bush

NEW Chief of the Code Enforcement Bureau



I have often said that one of my most pleasant experiences since coming to LADBS is the opportunity to work with some truly outstanding managers. It was therefore particularly gratifying for me to be able to promote one of our very best, Frank Bush, to be the new Chief of the Code Enforcement Bureau.

Frank Bush has over 23 years of experience with the City of Los Angeles and more than 34 years of experience in the construction industry. He holds a General Contractor's License from the State of California and a Certification as a

CA 90731

Counter Hours:
Monday,
Tuesday,
Thursday,
Friday: 7:30
am - 4:30 pm
Wednesday:
9:00 am - 4:30
pm
* San Pedro &
South LA
offices are
closed
between noon
- 1:00 pm daily

For
Information
you call:
3-1-1 (Inside
LA City) or
(213)
473-3231
(Outside LA
City)

Combination Dwelling Inspector from the International Code Council (ICC).

As the new Chief of the Department of Building and Safety's Code Enforcement Bureau (CEB), Frank is responsible for managing approximately 130 employees, who are involved in the enforcement of various codes, ordinances and other regulations of the Los Angeles Municipal Code designed to preserve and enhance the safety, appearance and economic stability of the City of Los Angeles.

Frank also oversees the operation of the CEB's Environmental Affairs Division's "Local Enforcement Agency" that handles inspection of the Sunshine Canyon Land fill, various recycling and trash collection sites, etc. throughout the city. CEB staff is located throughout the City in five different offices.

While beginning his career with the City, Frank has promoted through the various ranks and received numerous awards and recognitions from various elected officials, community groups, property owner associations and other City departments for his dedication to public service and for effectively addressing blight issues in various communities throughout the city.

Frank is married to Judy; they have four children and grandchild number eight on the way in January 2013. He and Judy are very involved in community service work.

Colin Kumabe

Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Building II



As LADBS' newest Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Building II, Colin Kumabe, has been working with the City since 1984. He has been actively involved in streamlining the permit process by developing procedural memos, information bulletins, and staff training. Colin currently manages the highly successful Parallel Design Permitting Program (PDPP) with 12 high rises, and a total of 106 projects, for a total valuation of \$7.4 Billion.

Colin holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from University of the Pacific, M.S. Engineering from UCLA, and M.B.A. from Long Beach State University. This, in part, has led him to become LADBS' Metro (Downtown) Plan Check Chief. Here, he manages the Structural Regular Plan Check, PDPP, Disabled Access, Commission Office, and Structural Engineering Research sections. His major projects experience include many hi-profile projects: Kodak (now Dolby) Theater, Playa Vista, LA Live and LA Convention Center and Stadium.

Colin is well respected with the design and engineering industry as an expert in code development and analysis. LADBS is fortunate to have him as a leader in his field and with his peers.

John Biezins

Chief Inspector



John Biezins has been promoted to Chief Inspector within the Code Enforcement Bureau. With his early beginnings working in construction as a laborer, and while attending college, as a tradesman, he later graduated from Loyola Marymount University in 1992 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. John then worked on his own general contracting business for ten years.

In 2000, John joined LADBS as a building-mechanical inspector. He later earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California in 2007.

John has performed outstanding work in every function of the Department from new construction inspection, to code enforcement, to administration, leading up to his recent promotion. John is truly a leader and an asset to LADBS.

Luke Zamperini

Chief Inspector



As the new Chief of the Training & Emergency Management Division and Alternate PIO, Luke Zamperini came to LADBS as a Building-Mechanical Inspector in 1991. In the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge earthquake, Luke coordinated LADBS' involvement in the FEMA/OES Disaster Application Centers.

In 1998, he played a key role in the formation of the then proposed Code Enforcement Bureau where he developed various management tools and preparations for staffing for the bureau and the Code Enforcement Information System. Since then, Luke managed nearly every code enforcement function.

He also successfully implemented the surveying and cataloging of every off site sign in the City and was a key player in the abatement of the illegal super-graphic signs. Luke's 'can do' attitude and 'common-sense' approach has made him a recognized leader in his field.

Bradley Neighbors

Chief Inspector



Brad has been promoted as LADBS' Chief of the Plumbing, Mechanical, & Fire Sprinkler Division of the Inspection Bureau. With the prior nine years in the construction trades, both in the private sector and at L.A. County, Brad began his career with LADBS in 1989 as a Building-Mechanical Inspector, focusing on code knowledge and skills in the inspection field.

In 1998, Brad became a Senior Inspector, and in 2003, a Principal Inspector.

Brad's extensive experience within LADBS has refined his managerial, inspection, code, and public relations skills, and he has continued to be another fine example in quality customer service and getting the job done.

Kim Arther

Chief Inspector



As a Chief Inspector of the Code Enforcement Bureau, Kim Arther has over 23 years of experience with the City of LA and more than 40 years of experience in the construction industry.

Kim obtained his Los Angeles Plumbing Journeyman License and holds State licensing as a Fire Sprinkler Contractor and Plumbing Contractor. Kim also carries two certifications: City of LA/Fire Sprinkler Inspector and Certified Plumbing Inspector.

Kim has received numerous awards and recognitions from various City departments and elected officials for his dedication to public service, and for resolving blight issues throughout the City. Kim continues to be a stellar example in customer service and his dedication to his work is exemplified by many.

Ewa O'Neal

Building Civil Engineer



Ewa O'Neal joined LADBS' Earthquake Safety Division in 1985. Later, she worked in the Research Division, Grading Division, and Major Structures Plan Check, and served as training officer in the Training Division. For the past 11 years she has successfully managed LADBS' Disabled Access Section and is a Certified Access Specialist.

Ewa regularly gives training lectures dealing with accessibility issues for the LADBS staff, to other local government building officials, plan checkers,

inspectors, as well as architects and design professionals. Ewa has proven herself to be a tremendous asset to this Department.

Ara Sargsyan

Building Civil Engineer



Ara Sargsyan is currently a Metro Plan Check supervisor and atraining officer at LADBS. His professional experience also includes structural design, research and teaching engineering courses. A number of his research works in noise control and building construction have been published and some have been utilized as textbooks.

Ara is an ICC Certified Building Official. He is a graduate of the Yerevan Polytechnic Institute of Armenia.

With his leadership skills, Ara is looking forward to soon becoming the new manager of the LADBS-West LA Office in mid-November.

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Building and Safety is to protect the lives and safety of the residents and visitors of the City of Los Angeles and enhance the quality of life, housing, economic prosperity, and job creation. This is accomplished through advising, guiding, and assisting customers to achieve compliance with the Building, Zoning, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical, Disabled Access, Energy, and Green Codes; and local and State laws, through a timely, ethical, cooperative, and transparent process for the facilitation of construction and maintenance of commercial, industrial, and residential buildings throughout the City.

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If you want to comment on the service(s) you received or file a complaint, please call our **Customer Hotline at (213) 482-0056.**

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